



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:
PP-NV-BSSG-15-01
1617.2 (210) P

MAY - 6 2016

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Michael Connor
Western Watersheds Project
P. O. Box 2364
Reseda, California 91337

Dear Mr. Connor:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has carefully reviewed and considered your letter dated March 13, 2015, regarding the Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMPA/FEIS). As the Acting Assistant Director for Resources and Planning, I am delegated the authority to review and resolve all protests of BLM land use plans. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the results of my review.

As outlined in the Dear Reader Letter for the proposed plan, the planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2 describe the requirements for filing a valid protest. I find that you meet these requirements, in part, and therefore portions of your protest letter are considered valid protest issues. I have determined that your letter also included comments, opinions, or observations which were not substantiated with a concise statement of why the State Director's proposed decision is believed to be wrong; issues not previously raised in the planning process; and/or issues not germane to the planning process. As such, your protest is dismissed in part. Your valid protest issue(s) are addressed in the Director's Protest Resolution Report.

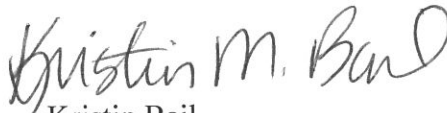
After careful review of your protest letter, and for reasons more fully set forth in the Protest Resolution Report, I conclude that the BLM Nevada State Director, the Carson City District Manager, and the Tonopah Field Manager followed the applicable laws, regulations, and policies and considered all relevant resource information and public input in developing Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMPA/FEIS). There is no basis for changing the plan amendment and FEIS as a result of your protest. Therefore, your protest is denied in part. All valid protest issues received on the PRMPA/FEIS have been addressed in the Director's Protest Resolution Report, incorporated by reference herein, which is posted for public review at: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/protest_resolution.html.

This completes my review and is the final agency action for the Department of the Interior on the concerns raised in your letter. At the time the BLM issues a decision to take an action that implements the Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Plan

Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMPA/FEIS), any party to a case adversely affected by that decision may appeal such decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Thank you for your interest in public lands. I encourage you to become involved as the Greater Sage-Grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Plan Amendment is implemented. If you have any questions or would like to request a copy of the Director's Protest Resolution Report, please contact John Ruhs, BLM Nevada State Director, at (775) 861-6400, or at 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada 89502.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin M. Bail". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kristin Bail
Acting Assistant Director
Resources and Planning